



Tischeria decidua (Wocke, 1876) (Lep: Tischeriidae) - a potential British species:



In the UK *Tischeria ekebladella* and *T. dodonaea* are known as leaf miners on Oak (*Quercus* spp.). In Belgium and The Netherlands a further species is found on Oak (*Tischeria decidua*).

Steve Wullaert (www.bladmineerders.be) gives tips for finding this rare leaf miner, which has recently colonized Belgium.

He says that 'We always find specimens near the edge of a forest, on big oaks. I find it very easy to distinguish it from the other *Tischeriidae* - *ekebladella* and *dodonaea*.



T. ekebladella is always white! *T. dodonaea* is mostly reddish with sometimes some greyish concentric lines in it. *Tischeria decidua* is mostly greyish to black with dark concentric lines in the mine. The centre of the mine can sometimes be a little red/orange, but the greyish/dark concentric lines in the rest of the mine are clearly darker than the other species. Another feature is that *T. decidua* cuts out the early mine to pupate somewhere else which the others don't do at all, they pupate in the leaf in the mine'.

The photo opposite (top) shows a mine of *T. decidua* with the dark concentric lines clearly seen and the rest of the mine is a greyish-black colour.

The photo opposite (bottom) shows a mine of *T. decidua* with the cut out for pupation



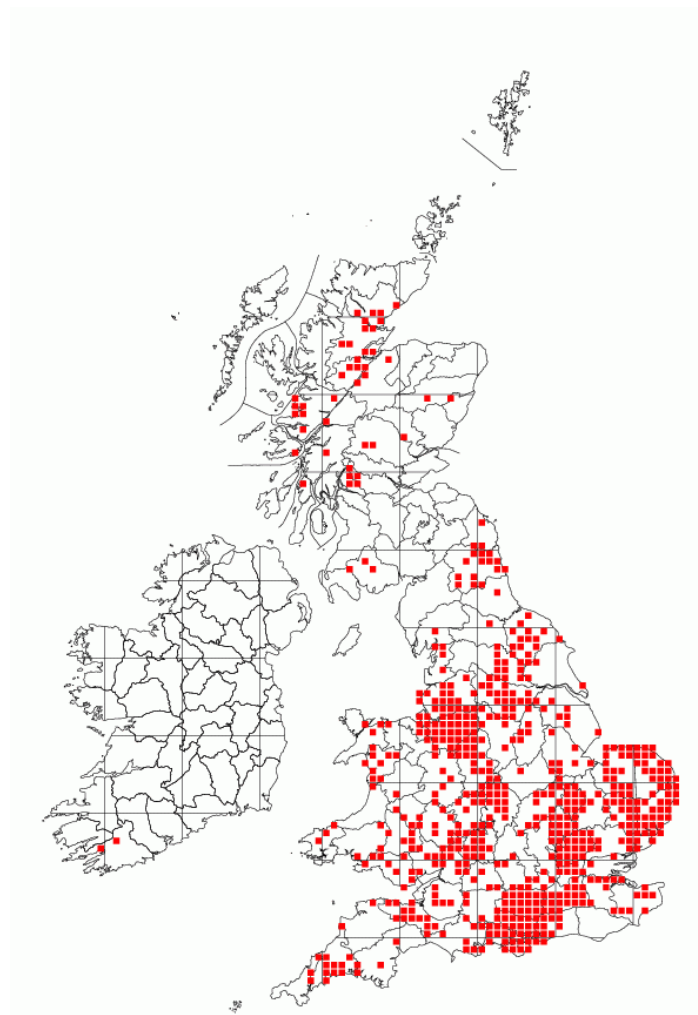
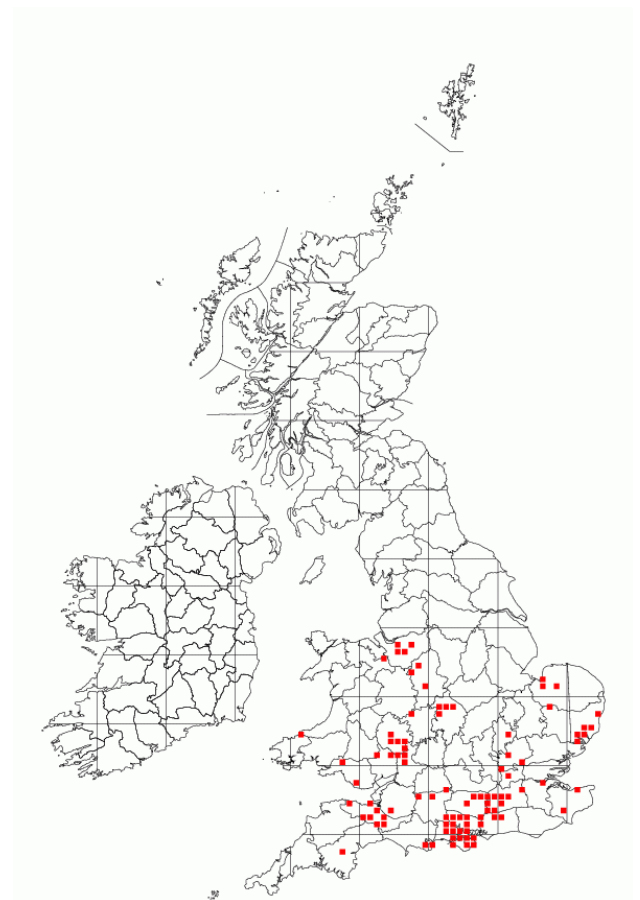
Photo © Rob Edmunds

For comparison the mines of *T.dodonaea* (left) and an early mine of *T.ekebladella* (right) are shown.

Further details of *T.decidua* can be found on Steve's site at:

<http://www.bladmineerders.be/nl/content/tisch-eria-decidua-wocke-1876>

The current distribution of *T.ekebladella* and *T.dodonaea* in the UK, using data from the Leaf-mining Moth Recording Scheme are shown below:

Distribution of *T.ekebladella*Distribution of *T.dodonaea*

Gelechiid Recording Scheme



Carpatolechia alburnella - Photo © Geoff & Donna Atherton

2012 brought the launch of a new National Microlepidoptera Recording Scheme – covering the micro-moth family, the Gelechiidae.

The aims of the Scheme are to:

- encourage interest in, and recording of Gelechiid moths found in the British Isles (including the Channel Islands);
- produce readily accessible on-line species distribution maps;
- improve knowledge of the status of all members of this family to aid their future conservation.

This large family of medium to small sized microlepidoptera are generally under-recorded. A proportion can be tricky to identify without dissection but fresh, well-marked specimens of many species are readily identifiable with care and most are readily bred through from larvae – often the best way to see these moths. There are several species that produce mines in leaves including two members of the genus *Chrysoesthia*; a distribution map for *C. sexguttella* based on data submitted to the Scheme can be seen on Page 4.

The Scheme has its own website (www.gelechiid.co.uk) hosted by the Biological Records Centre based at CEH Wallingford. We are presently concentrating on the acquisition of historic and modern data. Text to accompany each species is added as time allows and currently covers about forty of the species.

The website includes links to the many pages and photos on UK Moths, Dissection Group and British Leaf Miners websites – very many thanks to each of these for their permission to directly link to their resources.

162 different species of Gelechiid moths have been recorded in the British Isles although a few are now considered extinct. County Moth Recorders and individual recorders have responded fantastically to requests for records of this family and the database now holds nearly 90,000 records. There are still plenty of Vice Counties who have not yet submitted records so do please pass the word around if it looks like your area is not covered. The website maps contain all records submitted up to January 2013 and CEH update the maps on the website for us annually.

Advice on how and where to send in data is detailed on the website but we would strongly urge all those submitting records to do so via their County or Vice County Micro-moth Recorder (CMR) with a request that the records are forwarded to this scheme. If you are aware this is not happening then do please send them direct.

Record distribution policy

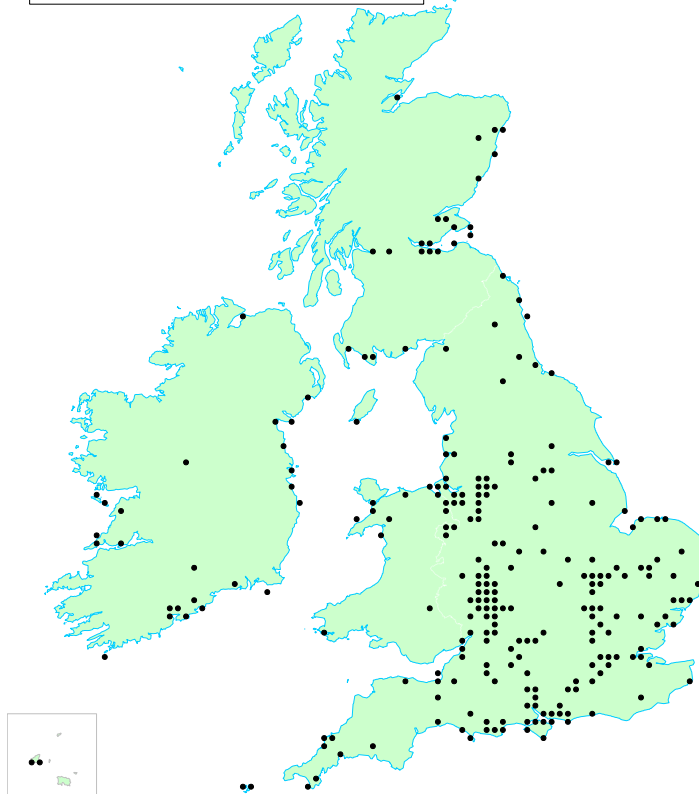
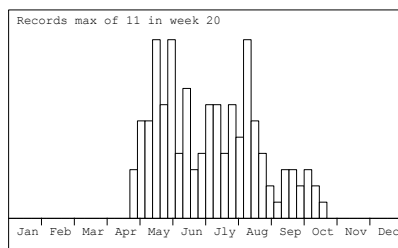
All data collected will be made available to County Moth Recorders, Butterfly Conservation, the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and other appropriate conservation organisations. Specific requests to release only restricted information due to species rarity will be respected.

We look forward to hearing from you and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, suggestions or records to submit.

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0747 *Chrysoesthia sexguttella*



Phyllonorycter messaniella (Zeller, 1846)(Lep:Lithocolletinae) - a leaf miner of *Ostrya carpinifoliae*



Having added *Ostrya carpinifoliae* to the British Host Plant list in 2012, with the mines of *Stigmella microtheriella* Stewart Wright looked for further mines on this host in 2013 in the grounds of Hoveton Hall, Norfolk.

On 14.ix.2013 SW found *Phyllonorycter*-type mines which he sent to Rob Edmunds for further investigation. The mines were small – being 10–11 mm long, with a strong central crease (see photo Page 5). Although most leaves had just one mine, one leaf had two.

Hering, M (1957) – Bestimmungstabellen der Blattminen von Europa gives *Phyllonorycter tenerella* on this host, but the exuviae dissected out were not that species.

Phyllonorycter messaniella is known on this host in Europe and the cremaster resembled those of this species, with thicker curved outer spin

The inner spines were hooked but consensus was that this species was in all likelihood *P.messaniella*.

SW collected some leaves in order to try and rear the moth and an adult duly emerged on 13.x.2013. On examination it proved to be *P.messaniella*.

We believe this is the first record in Britain of this leaf miner on this host and we are very grateful to John Langmaid and David Manning for their help in identifying this species.



Photos © Rob Edmunds